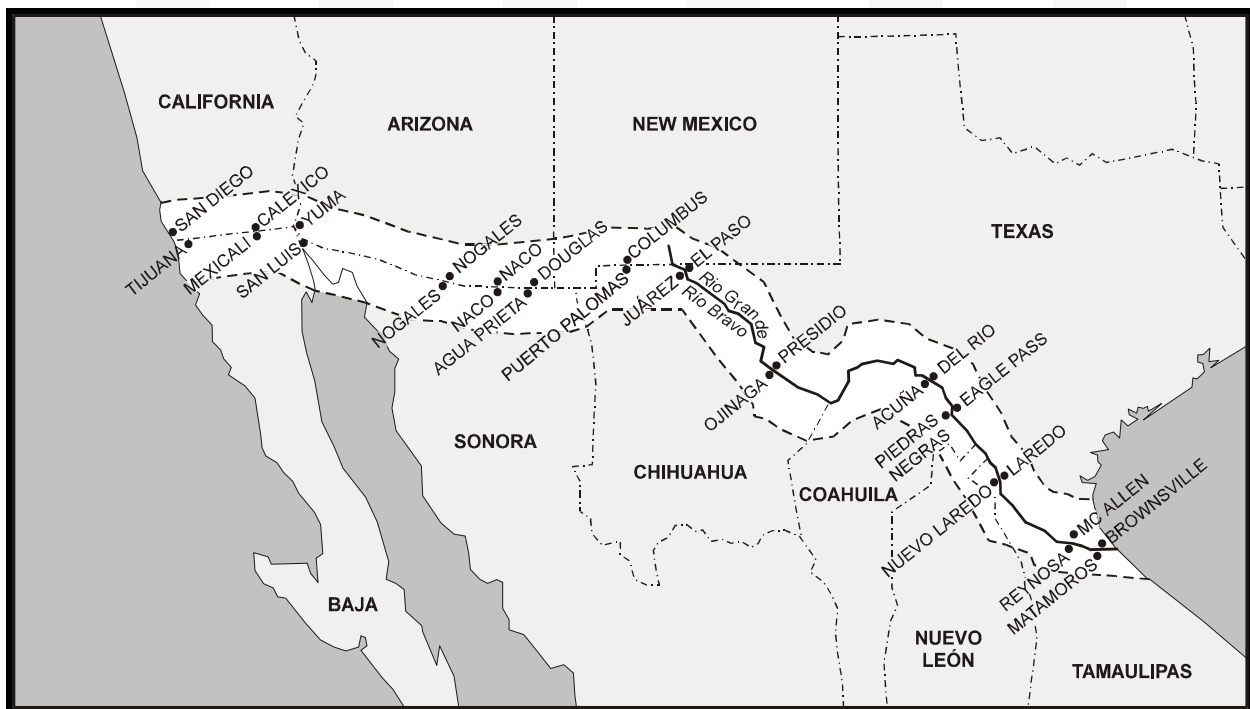


# SEMIANNUAL REPORT ON UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES



EPA 550-B-99-020  
September 1999  
Issue Number 4

## INTRODUCTION

U.S. EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (CEPPO) provides leadership, advocacy, and assistance to:

- # Prevent and prepare for hazardous material (HAZMAT) emergencies;
- # Respond to environmental crises; and
- # Inform the public about chemical hazards in their community.

To protect human health and the environment, CEPPO develops, implements, and coordinates regulatory and non-regulatory programs. The Office carries out this work in partnership with regions, domestic and international organizations in the public and private sectors, and the general public.

The purpose of the *Semiannual Report on United States-Mexico Border Contingency Planning Activities* is to consolidate information on United States-Mexico border joint response and contingency planning from U.S. EPA Regions, border states, and sister cities in order to promote the exchange of information and coordination among these groups. The types of activities presented in this report range from joint response planning meetings and meetings to develop sister city plans, to actual joint response exercises and training courses, to actual HAZMAT and environmental emergencies.

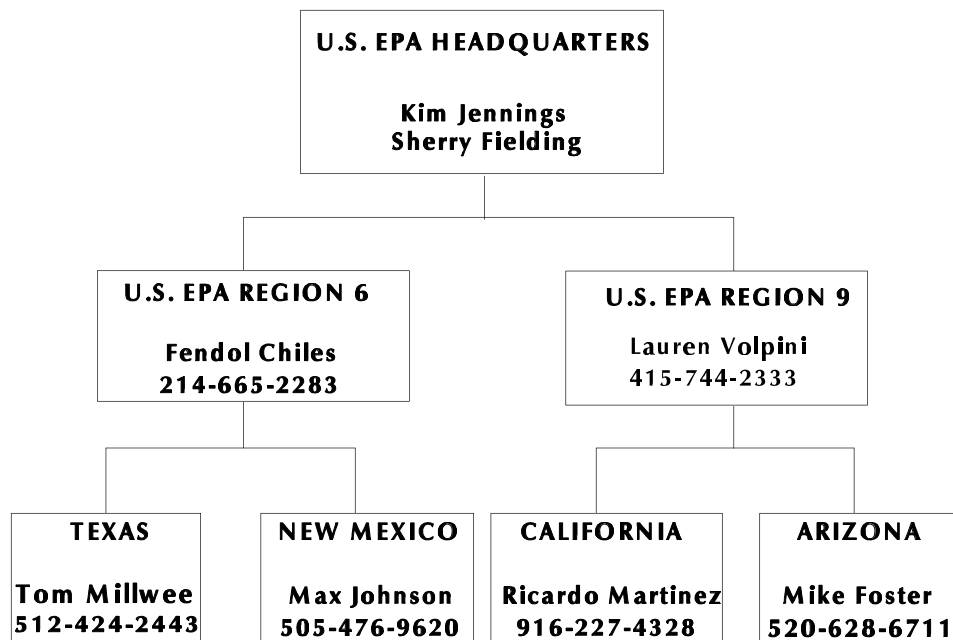
Each of the U.S. EPA Regions, U.S. states, and other organizations along the United States-Mexico border were contacted for information on recent and future border contingency activities. The information gathered for the third issue of the report (January 1999) served as the baseline for this update. Updates are published twice a year.

## PUBLISHED BY

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- # Rebekah Hoffacker, U.S. EPA Region 9
- # James Hunt, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- # Don Plain, California Department of Toxic Substances and Control

## DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

- # Border Information & Solutions Network monthly newsletter (since March 1998)  
(available from the City of Brownsville)
- # Brownsville-Matamoros Sister City Emergency Response Plan (May 1997)  
(available from U.S. EPA Region 6)
- # Clean Air Act Risk Management Plan manual in Spanish (1998; translation of 157-page English manual) (available on CD-ROM from U.S. EPA Region 6)
- # Columbus-Puerto Palomas Sister City Emergency Response Plan (expected by end of 1999) (available from U.S. EPA Region 6)
- # Eagle Pass-Piedras Negras Sister City Emergency Response Plan (March 1998)  
(available from U.S. EPA Region 6)
- # Fact Sheets for the Border XXI Workgroups (nine of the 13 fact sheets were released in April 1999) (available from U.S. EPA Region 9)
- # Imperial and San Diego Counties Pesticide Episode Response Plans (September 1998) (available from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation)
- # Joint United States-Mexico Inland Contingency Plan (signed June 4, 1999)  
(available from U.S. EPA Headquarters)
- # Laredo-Nuevo Laredo Sister City Emergency Response Plan (December 1998)  
(available from U.S. EPA Region 6)
- # The North American Emergency Response Guidebook (1996; to be updated by September 1999) (available in English, Spanish, and French from the U.S. Department of Transportation)
- # Personal Safety Plan: Chemical Emergencies (1998) (available from Corpus Christi Nueces County LEPC)
- # Recomendaciones a la Población en Caso de Desastre (Recommendations for the Public During an Emergency) (booklet, in Spanish) (available from Civil Protection - Coahuila)
- # Response Procedures for 45 Chemicals (November 1998) (available from Corpus Christi Nueces County LEPC; available in Spanish in 1999)
- # Semiannual Report on United States-Mexico Border Contingency Planning Activities (Issue Number 1, February 1998; Issue Number 2, August 1998; Issue Number 3, January 1999) (available from U.S. EPA Headquarters and on the web: <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/ip-bopr.htm>)
- # United States-Mexico Border Environmental Indicators 1997 (June 1998)  
(available from U.S. EPA Region 9)

## **INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST**

- # EPA CEPPPO — <http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/>
- # EPA Region 6 Border Program — <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6bo/6bo.htm>
- # EPA Region 9 Border XXI Program — <http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/>
- # U.S. National Response Center — <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil>
- # Border EcoWeb by San Diego State University —  
<http://www.borderecoweb.sdsu.edu/>
- # Border Environment Cooperation Commission — <http://cocef.org/>
- # Border Information & Solutions Network — <http://www.bisn.org/>
- # City of Brownsville, Texas — <http://www.ci.brownsville.tx.us/>
- # Corpus Christi Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee —  
<http://www.lepc.net/>
- # Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission —  
<http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/>
- # United States-Mexico Border Regional Environmental Information System —  
<http://epaserver.ciesin.org/usmbreis/USMBREIS-home.html>
- # PROFEPA Environmental Emergencies in Mexico — <http://www.profepa.gob.mx/>

## **NEW PLANNING TOOL: BORDER ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

CEPPPO's web site contains an electronic calendar where any party involved in planning or response to HAZMAT emergencies along the U.S.-Mexico border can submit information on upcoming activities to be included in the calendar. The web page contains self-explanatory pages and instructions, so that anyone can introduce information about their planned activities. Such information will be reviewed and posted by the Calendar Coordinator. Posting and reading about activities on the electronic calendar is an easy and free way to expand the potential audience for these activities or to stay informed of planned activities. The calendar may be found at the following URL:  
<http://www.icf-infotech.com/epa/ceppo/jcpcaldr.nsf>

## STATUS OF SISTER CITY PLANS

Brownsville, Texas- Matamoros, Tamaulipas	Signed on May 6, 1997. Title: <i>Cross Border Contingency Plan — U.S./Mexico — Brownsville/ Matamoros.</i>
Eagle Pass, Texas- Piedras Negras, Coahuila	Signed on March 25, 1998. Title: <i>Cross Border Contingency Plan — U.S./Mexico — Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras.</i>
Laredo, Texas-Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Signed on December 21, 1998. Title: <i>Cross Border Contingency Plan — U.S./Mexico — Laredo/Nuevo Laredo.</i>
McAllen, Texas- Reynosa, Tamaulipas; Del Rio, Texas-Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila; Presidio, Texas- Ojinaga, Chihuahua; El Paso, Texas-Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua	Work underway on several of these plans.
Columbus, New Mexico-Puerto Palomas, Chihuahua	Expected to be signed in 1999. Title: <i>Cross Border Contingency Plan — U.S./Mexico — Columbus/ Puerto Palomas.</i>
Douglas, Arizona-Agua Prieta, Sonora	Binational letter of understanding to cooperate in case of emergencies. Effective April 29, 1999.
Naco, Arizona-Naco, Sonora	There is no binational Sister City Plan at present. (Naco, Arizona, is an unincorporated townsite of Cochise County.)
Nogales, Arizona- Nogales, Sonora	In Nogales, a binational Steering Committee was established. The International City and County Manager's Association has been assisting U.S. EPA in providing assistance to this Sister City pair. The Plan's first draft was developed and used as a starting point for Steering Committee discussions in July and August 1999. A bilingual simultaneous translator was retained to assist at meetings and for Plan development. A third draft is under review.
San Luis, Arizona-San Luis Río Colorado, Sonora	In San Luis, a meeting with the Mayor, Fire Chief, LEPC, and U.S. EPA resulted in a commitment to begin Plan development. U.S. EPA has initiated research to gather essential documents and data.

### STATUS OF SISTER CITY PLANS (cont'd)

Calexico, California- Mexicali, Baja California	Two mutual aid agreements have been developed: the first in September 1993, entitled <i>City of Calexico-City of Mexicali Mutual Aid Agreement</i> ; the second in February 1996, entitled <i>United States/Mexico — Imperial County/Ayuntamiento de Mexicali, B.C. — Emergency Services Mutual Aid Agreement</i> .
San Diego, California- Tijuana, Ensenada, Tecate, and Playas de Rosarito, Baja California	Communication plans exist for San Diego and Imperial Counties in the United States and Baja California in Mexico.

## RECENT<sup>1</sup> UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Presented in Chronological Order (Presented by State in the Final Table)

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# February 17, 1998	<b>Arizona.</b> The State of Arizona completed a new State Emergency Response & Recovery Plan which specifically references the U.S.-Mexico Joint Contingency Plan and makes notification of Mexico a responsibility of the Arizona State On-Scene Coordinator when incidents that threaten/impact Mexico occur within the border region.
# March 29, 1998	<b>Nogales, Arizona.</b> Nogales Fire Department, Santa Cruz County, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality partnered with the Union Pacific Railroad to conduct a functional night-time hazardous materials exercise that also included a law enforcement element involving the illegal transport of hazardous waste. Seventeen agencies were involved, with over 120 people actively participating. The drill was nearly full scale, with a staged collision between a tractor-trailer and a train. The collision was presumed to cause a fire and result in a plume of smoke (with unknown components) crossing the border into Mexico, leaving victims in its path on both sides. A Mexican Fire Department Engine responded across the U.S. border to assist in tactical operations. The exercise successfully tested emergency response capacity and contingency plans on both sides of the border, and identified a need to develop cross border contingency plans that include both U.S. Customs and Mexico Customs input, as well as a need for additional communications, equipment and training resources.
# 1998	<b>Nogales, Sonora/Arizona.</b> The derailment of three tanker cars in a heavy traffic area created a unique opportunity via a request from Mexico's Protección Civil officials to the Nogales Fire Department and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Southern Regional Office. The filled tankers contained sulfuric acid, but there was no release. The tankers were righted and salvaged without off-loading and eventually continued to their destination in southwestern Sonora. Continued production and increased volumes of transport of sulfuric acid through the region by highway and rail continue to create additional safety and response concerns.

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<sup>1</sup>Or not previously reported in an earlier update.



## RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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# November 7, 1998

**Douglas, Arizona.** A disaster exercise was conducted involving 23 agencies from both sides of the U.S./Mexico border and over 170 people. The nearly full scale exercise simulated a motor vehicle accident involving a tour bus carrying 40 passengers (simulated by 22) and a tractor-trailer carrying unknown chemicals. The accident was staged at a location near a Department of Corrections (DOC) facility and involved the release of an unknown gas, requiring evacuation of the area, including the DOC complex. The exercise successfully tested the response and contingency capacity of three local elements: 1) Hazardous Materials Response; 2) Mass Casualty Response; and 3) Department of Corrections Evacuation Response. Numerous local strengths and areas for improvement were identified.

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# January 1999

**Washington, D.C.** The United States-Mexico joint contingency planning and emergency response activities calendar was launched by U.S. EPA, which posted a calendar on its border programs Internet webpage at <http://www.epa.gov.swercept/border.html>. This world-wide-web-based electronic calendar may be used to publicize federal, state, and local events and activities pertaining to chemical emergency preparedness and response along the U.S.-Mexico border. Anyone may submit their activities to the calendar.

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# February 2-4, 1999

**Las Vegas, Nevada.** The U.S. EPA hosted in Las Vegas, Nevada the annual meeting of the U.S. National Response Team and Regional Response Team Co-Chairs. Participants included representatives from U.S. Departments and Agencies including: EPA (Headquarters and Regional staff), United States Coast Guard, General Services Administration, Department of Energy, Centers for Disease Control, National Response Team, Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The annual meeting addressed HAZMAT emergency preparedness and response issues and activities. Action items relevant to the U.S.-Mexico border include: (1) continue to develop agreements with Sister Cities; (2) mentor other countries in preparedness and response; (3) incorporate specific agencies/ organizations for certain bilateral issues; and (4) develop a strategy to increase the NRT's international effectiveness.

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## RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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- # **March-June 1999**     **El Paso, Texas.** Three of the four scheduled meetings of the Joint U.S.-Mexico Response Team Workgroup on Public Outreach took place in El Paso. The conclusions and results of these meetings will be available after the series of four meetings concludes.
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- # **March 8, 1999**     **Tijuana, Baja California.** Meeting and Tour of Tijuana Dirección de Bomberos y Protección Civil (Fire and Civil Protection Department). This meeting was initiated by Mexico's Protección Civil to discuss opportunities for working bi-nationally on emergency response and preparedness issues along the San Diego/Tijuana border. The meeting was followed by a tour of the facility, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and tracking systems and equipment. Representatives from the State of California and U.S. EPA were interviewed on Televisa Tijuana. Participants agreed to establish ongoing communication on emergency response issues related to the goals of the U.S.-Mexico Joint Response Team (e.g., notification of release and emergency response events, contact list updates, exchange of information on training and capacity building).
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- # **March 8-11, 1999**     **Seattle, Washington.** The Biennial International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC), focusing on the prevention, behavior, control, and cleanup of oil spills, was hosted by U.S. EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, American Petroleum Institute, International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association, and the International Maritime Organization. The 1999 IOSC included a wide variety of activities to promote an international exchange of information and ideas. Authors from approximately 20 countries presented papers and posters on preventing and responding to oil spills. In addition, 150 U.S. and foreign companies, institutions, and government agencies exhibited oil industry products, equipment, and services. The latest response equipment and techniques were displayed during an on-water demonstration. Participants also were able to attend courses on oil spill response. The next IOSC will be held in Tampa, Florida in 2001.
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## RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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# **March 26-27, 1999** **Nuevo Laredo, Texas.** On March 26-27 the Texas Association of Hispanic Fire Fighters conducted the "Reaching 2000 Binational Seminar," its first seminar in the border area. Participation was diverse, including many public and private entities such as the Latino Peace Officer Association, Emergency Management of Texas, Partners of the Americas, DPS, the Texas State Commission on Firefighter Standards, technical school students from Nuevo Laredo, maquiladoras, and Protección Civil. Sessions were held on the following topics: first on scene scenarios, including an emphasis on crime scene preservation and terrorist use of chemicals; traffic and crowd control; managing an incident; triage tagging and decontamination of patients; remediation concepts in HAZMAT incidents, and the Incident Command System. Juan García, Houston Fire Department Rescue Captain, provided an overview of an upcoming course in Structural Firefighting to be held in Houston.

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# **April 12, 1999** **San Luis, Arizona.** U.S. EPA held a Border XXI Open House to inform the community of the National Coordinators Meeting to be held in Ensenada, and of the importance of having active community involvement. This activity was geared to local governments and any interested community members. There were 35 to 40 participants from the U.S. and Mexico. The meeting was filmed, and will be included in the Border XXI video being developed by U.S. EPA Region 9.

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## RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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# April 29, 1999

**Cities of Calexico, California and Mexicali, Baja California.** These two cities held a bi-national, full-scale HAZMAT/mass casualty exercise ("Operation Big Spill") conducted independently but simultaneously in Calexico, CA and Mexicali, Baja California. In Calexico, the exercise was conducted by the Imperial County Fire Department, with the active participation of various organizations including the California Department of Toxic Substances and the Region 6 Local Emergency Planning Committee. Since the exercise location was in close vicinity to Yuma and San Luis, Arizona and San Luis Rio Colorado, invitations were extended to the local fire departments in those towns so that responders could observe and take back with them information about planning future binational exercises.



*Photo courtesy of Rebekah Hoffacker.*

# April 29, 1999

**Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora.** The Mayor of Douglas, Arizona and the Municipal President of Agua Prieta signed letters indicating their intent to work together to develop Sister City cross border contingency plans. This significant news was presented by the HAZMAT coordinator of the Douglas Fire Department at the Border XXI National Coordinators meeting held in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. Efforts to continue Sister City plan development have been supported by a U.S. EPA grant.

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## RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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# May 11-14, 1999

**Ensenada, Baja California.** The U.S.-Mexico Border XXI National Coordinators Meeting brought together representatives from federal, state, and local governments. The workgroup for Contingency Planning and Emergency Response developed the following recommendations: (1) test notification procedures, (2) encourage industry participation, (3) address the transport of hazardous materials, (4) overcome training and equipment shortages, and (5) include Y2K and counter-terrorism presentations at the next U.S.-Mexico Border XXI Joint Response Team meeting.

*Full Meeting of the U.S.-Mexico  
Border XXI National Coordinators.  
Photo courtesy of Rebekah  
Hoffacker.*



*JRT/Workgroup Meeting.  
Photo Courtesy of Kim Jennings.*

## RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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*An award was presented to Fendol Chiles at the National Coordinators Meeting in Ensenada, Baja California on May 11, 1999 for his dedication, leadership, and significant contributions towards implementation of the Region 6 Sister City plans under the U.S.-Mexico Border XXI Program Contingency Planning and Emergency Response Workgroup. Photo courtesy of Kim Jennings.*

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**# May 20-21, 1999**      **Sacramento, California.** Annual California/U.S. EPA Border Retreat to discuss appropriate State partners and identify opportunities for cross-Workgroup efforts.

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**# May 24, 1999**      **Phoenix, Arizona.** A Nogales Sister-City meeting was held in coordination with the CAMEO® 99 Conference. U.S. EPA provided U.S. and Mexican representatives from Nogales, Sonora with Invitational Travel to participate. U.S. EPA took this opportunity to hold a meeting with parties present from Nogales to discuss establishing a binational Steering Committee for Sister City Planning and determine next steps.



*Photo courtesy of Kim Jennings.*

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## RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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- # May 24-28, 1999      **Phoenix, Arizona.** CAMEO® 99 Conference. The CAMEO® 99 Conference included the first training in the use of the Spanish version of CAMEO® . The training was hosted by U.S. EPA, NOAA, and the Arizona Emergency Response Commission. CAMEO® (Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations) is a suite of programs for Windows and Macintosh which includes chemical databases, an emergency management program, MARPLOT (a mapping program), and ALOHA (an air dispersion model). The conference included representatives from the U.S., Mexico, Panama, and Argentina.



*Photo courtesy of Kim Jennings.*

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- # 1st half 1999      **Nogales, Arizona.** The HAZMAT Coordinator for the Douglas, Arizona Fire Department participated in all Nogales planning activities and the CAMEO® Spanish training in order to begin Sister City planning in Douglas/Agua Prieta.
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- # 1st half 1999      **Brownsville/Matamoros, McAllen/Reynosa, Laredo/Nuevo Laredo, Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras, and El Paso/Ciudad Juarez.** A contract has been awarded to develop an inventory database of emergency response capabilities in these Sister Cities. This inventory database will provide information on the emergency response resources and assets of U.S. and Mexico municipal government operations (e.g., fire, police, medical). This information will be compatible with CAMEO® and in a format to allow its incorporation into the electronic Area Contingency Plan (ACP) and the Local Emergency Contingency Plans, which include the Sister City Plans.
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## RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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|-----------------------------|---|
| <b># 1st half 1999</b>      | <b>Cochise County, Arizona.</b> U.S. EPA settled an enforcement case, under EPCRA/CERCLA Section 103, which included a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to benefit the local community and emergency responders. As part of this settlement, emergency response equipment was purchased for the Cochise County LEPC and the Benson and Fry fire departments to better respond to hazardous material releases.   |
| <b># June 4, 1999</b>       | <b>United States and Mexico.</b> The United States-Mexico Joint Contingency Plan was formally signed by both nations on June 4, 1999.   |
| <b># June 29-30, 1999</b>   | <b>Phoenix, Arizona.</b> Annual State/Tribal/U.S. EPA Border Retreat. Participants addressed enhanced cooperation and coordination, identified potential projects, and addressed improved tribal involvement in border programs. Participants exchanged information, identified Workgroup goals; shared successes and accomplishments; discussed challenges, barriers and failures to implementing Workgroup goals; and identified opportunities to address gaps. Those with interest in Emergency Response and Contingency Planning (ER&CP) also met among themselves, and there was general agreement to establish an ongoing U.S. EPA/Arizona/Sonora ER & CP subgroup. |
| <b># July 21, 1999</b>      | <b>San Luis, Arizona/San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora.</b> A binational HAZMAT Tabletop Exercise ("Cautious Reaction") was successfully conducted. U.S. EPA helped to facilitate the exercise design, conduct the exercise, and participate in the after action de-brief. The exercise was conducted to evaluate cross border communication and resources coordination of participating agencies and their ability to support response to a major HAZMAT emergency utilizing the incident command system.  |
| <b># August 10, 1999</b>    | <b>San Diego, California.</b> A mock exercise organized by the San Diego County Agriculture Department, with the participation of San Diego County Health Department and Tijuana Protección Civil, was conducted to test the effectiveness of the lines of communication established between California and Mexico pertaining to the safe use of pesticides.  |
| <b># August 23-25, 1999</b> | <b>Eagle Pass, Texas.</b> This was the first of the five Spanish CAMEO® courses scheduled by U.S. EPA Region 6. The purpose of these courses is to familiarize U.S. and Mexican local officials (e.g., medical, fire, police, emergency response personnel) with information available through Spanish CAMEO.   |
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## PLANNED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

All Activities are Tentative (Presented by State in the Final Table)

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#	September 1999	<b>Washington, D.C.</b> English and Spanish versions of the new Y2K compliant version of CAMEO® will be released with additional information in the chemicals and response information database. The new version of CAMEO® also has enhanced data import and export capabilities.
#	September 29-30, 1999	<b>Guanajuato, Gto. Mexico.</b> PROFEPA will host the next annual United States-Mexico Joint Response Team (JRT) meeting on September 29-30, 1999. Potential topics to be discussed at the meeting include national and international issues related to joint contingency planning and emergency response. Participants will include U.S. and Mexican members of the JRT and stakeholders at the Federal, State, and local levels of government, as well as the industrial sector.
#	October 1999	<b>Cities of Nogales, San Luis, and Douglas.</b> U.S. EPA expects to approve three grant proposals that seek assistance for Sister City plan development and emergency response preparedness. The grants also identify specific equipment to be lent to the key HAZMAT planners and responders in Mexico so that communication between the Cities can be improved and exercised.
#	October 1999	<b>San Diego, CA.</b> U.S. EPA expects to approve grant assistance to Southwestern College of San Diego (in cooperation with the San Diego Office of the California Office of Emergency Services). The objective of this grant is to allow concerned parties on both sides of the border to evaluate available software and hardware for conducting real-time risk assessment for chemical spills and for planning purposes. The availability of data for the different software will also be considered in the evaluations, and the willingness of industry to support the system will be assessed.
#	Late 1999	<b>Arizona.</b> U.S. EPA has arranged for Superfund CORE grant funding to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to support their border planning and response activities and arrange for HAZMAT training for Sister Cities.

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## PLANNED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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#	Late 1999	<b>Calexico and Mexicali.</b> The California Department of Toxic Substances (DTS) and U.S. EPA are currently discussing ways to facilitate a Sister City agreement between Calexico and Mexicali. The specific role of DTS will be to provide U.S. EPA Superfund CORE grant funds to Calexico for the purchase of hazardous materials emergency response equipment in order to increase response capability in the area.
#	2nd half, 1999	<b>Texas.</b> EPA Region 6 has scheduled delivery of a Spanish CAMEO® course in five Texas cities. The first course was held August 23-25 in Eagle Pass, Texas. The remaining cities in which the course will be taught are Brownsville, McAllen, Laredo, and El Paso. Participants in these courses include Bomberos, Protección Civil from Mexico, local fire departments, police department personnel in U.S. cities, and Local Emergency Planning Committee members.
#	December 1999	<b>San Diego, California.</b> U.S. EPA Region 9 expects to complete development of a video on the Border XXI Program. The video will present an overview of the Border XXI Program and discuss the decision-making process used for the entire Border XXI Program, highlighting the importance of public participation. The video will be produced in English and Spanish, and will be made available to communities in Arizona and California.
#	January 19-21, 2000	<b>San Francisco, California.</b> U.S. EPA Region 9 is planning to sponsor a Chemical Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Conference involving U.S. and Mexican border HAZMAT planners early in the year 2000.
#	April 4-6, 2000	<b>St. Louis, Missouri.</b> The HAZMAT 2000 spill prevention conference will be sponsored by the U.S. EPA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Response Team, among others. This conference will bring together communities, industry, states, and nations to examine existing policies and tools that foster accident prevention, preparedness, and response activities.

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## RECENT AND PLANNED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Presented by State (Presented in Chronological Order in Previous Tables)

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### # Texas



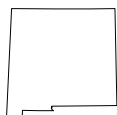
#### Recent Activities:

- Joint Response Team Outreach Meetings (El Paso; March-June, 1999)
- Reaching 2000 Binational Seminar (Nuevo Laredo; March 26-27, 1999)
- Spanish CAMEO course (Eagle Pass; August 23-25, 1999)
- Contract awarded to develop an inventory of emergency response capabilities (Cities of Brownsville/Matamoros, McAllen/Reynosa, Laredo/Nuevo Laredo, Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras, and El Paso/Cuidad Juarez; 1999)

#### Planned Activities:

- Four Spanish CAMEO courses (Brownsville, McAllen, Laredo, and El Paso; late 1999)
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### # New Mexico



#### Recent Activities:

- None reported for this update.

#### Planned Activities:

- None reported.
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### # California



#### Recent Activities:

- "Operation Big Spill" (Cities of Calexico, California and Mexicali, Baja California; April 29, 1999)
- Annual California EPA Border Retreat (Sacramento; May 20-21, 1999)
- Mock pesticide exercise at San Diego County (San Diego; August 10, 1999)

#### Planned Activities:

- U.S. EPA Superfund CORE grant Workplan Development (TBD, 1999)
  - U.S. EPA grant assistance to Southwestern College of San Diego (expected October 1999)
  - Development of plans to help facilitate the preparation of the sister city agreement between Calexico and Mexicali (Calexico, California and Mexicali, Baja California, 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 1999)
  - Video on the Border XXI program (San Diego, December 1999)
  - U.S. EPA Region 9 Chemical Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Conference (San Francisco, California; January 19-21, 2000)
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## RECENT AND PLANNED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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### # Arizona



#### Recent Activities:

- State Emergency Response & Recovery Plan (February 17, 1998)
- Binational Functional Night-time Hazardous Materials Exercise (Nogales; March 29, 1998)
- Derailment in Nogales, Mexico Provides Technical & Scientific Support Opportunity (Nogales, 1998)
- Binational Functional Hazardous Materials Exercise (Douglas; November 7, 1998)
- Border XXI Open House (San Luis; April 12, 1999)
- Douglas and Agua Prieta Executive Officials Sign Cross Border ER Letters of Intent (April 29, 1999)
- Nogales Sister City Meeting (Phoenix; May 24, 1999)
- CAMEO® 99 Conference, which included training for Spanish CAMEO® (Phoenix; May 24-28, 1999)
- Annual State/Tribal/U.S. EPA Border Retreat (Phoenix; June 29-30, 1999)
- Operation "Cautious Reaction" (San Luis; July 21, 1999)
- Douglas-Nogales sister city planning cooperation (Nogales; 1<sup>st</sup> half of 1999)
- Enforcement settlement results in emergency planning equipment (Cochise County, 1999)

#### Planned Activities:

- U.S. EPA Superfund CORE grant Workplan Development (TBD, 1999)
  - U.S. EPA grant to the City of Douglas (expected October 1999)
  - U.S. EPA grant to the City of Nogales (expected October 1999)
  - U.S. EPA grant to the City of San Luis (expected October 1999)
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## RECENT AND PLANNED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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#	Events of Interest in Other Locations	Recent Activities:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Launch of the United States-Mexico joint response activities calendar (Washington, D.C.; January 1999)</li><li>— Annual National Response Team and Regional Response Team Co-Chairs (Las Vegas, Nevada; February 2-4, 1999)</li><li>— Meeting and tour of Tijuana Dirección de Bomberos y Protección Civil (Tijuana, Baja California; March 8, 1999)</li><li>— Biennial International Oil Spill Conference (Seattle, Washington; March 8-11, 1999)</li><li>— U.S.-Mexico Border XXI National Coordinators Meeting (May 11-14, 1999)</li><li>— Signing of the U.S.-Mexico Joint Contingency Plan (June 4, 1999)</li></ul>
		Planned Activities:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Distribution of Spanish CAMEO® (Washington, D.C.; September, 1999)</li><li>— Annual United States-Mexico Joint Response Team meeting (Guanajuato, Mexico; September 29-30, 1999)</li><li>— HAZMAT 2000 Spills Prevention Conference (St. Louis, Missouri; April 4-6, 1999)</li></ul>